



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER FIGHTER WING
U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET
NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-5200

1995 ✓

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From: Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) COMFITWINGLANT Command History
(2) COMFITWINGLANT Calendar Year 1995
(3) Biography of Captain Dale O. Snodgrass
(4) Photograph of Captain Dale O. Snodgrass
(5) Former Wing Commanders

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.


D. O. SNODGRASS

Copy to: (w/o encls (3), (4) and (5))
COMNAVAIRLANT (N02P)

Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

COMMAND HISTORY

Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet was established on 1 July 1971 replacing Commander Fleet Air Norfolk as supervisor, coordinator and director of operations, maintenance, supply and administration for Atlantic Fleet fighter squadrons. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet assumes the overall responsibility for the continuing material readiness and type training of all fleet squadrons and units within the Atlantic Fleet F-14 fighter community. In addition, Commander, Fighter wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet is administratively responsible for providing support for Fleet Composite Squadron 8. The Commander coordinates, for the squadron/air wing commander, the scheduling of such functions as safety inspections, aircraft material inspections and modification programs, Standard Depot Level Maintenance (SDLM) schedules, unit weapons deployments and competitive exercises. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet also assists the air wing commanders and fleet squadron commanding officers in all aspects of training and material readiness while shore-based and, when appropriate, when squadrons are deployed.

At present, Fighter Wing Atlantic consists of six fleet operation squadrons flying the F-14 tomcat, Fighter Squadron 101, Fleet Composite Squadron 8 and provides scheduling authority over Fighter Squadron Composite 12. The Fleet Readiness Squadron, Fighter Squadron 101, provides replacement aircrew and maintenance personnel for the F-14. Fleet Composite Squadron 8 provides fleet air support services for deploying aviation squadrons. Fighter Squadron Composite 12 provides adversary support for the fleet and Fighter Squadron 101.

Fighter Wing Atlantic is comprised of over 280 aircraft and more than 4,700 officers and enlisted personnel. The prompt provision of services and facilities to the squadrons and personnel that compromise them ensures support and maximum combat readiness capabilities of the Atlantic Fleet fighter community.

Enclosure (1)

COMFITWINGLANT CALENDAR YEAR 1995

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission. To exercise administrative and operational control over readiness training squadrons and other units assigned. Fighter Wing Atlantic assists air wing commanders and fleet squadron commanding officers in all aspects of training and material readiness while shore-based and, when appropriate, while squadrons are deployed.

b. Commander. Captain Dale O. Snodgrass.

c. Command Relationships. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet reports to Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

2. Chronology.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
20JAN95	Fighter Squadron 103 Change of Command. Commander S. C. Schlientz relieved Commander S. L. Saunders.
7APR95	Fighter Squadron 142 decommissioned.
12MAY95	Fighter Squadron 84 Change of Command. Commander J. D. Cloyd relieved Commander B. T. Goetsch.
10OCT95	Fighter Squadron 84 decommissioned.
14OCT95	Fighter Squadron Composite 12 Change of Command. Commander R. S. Dadiomoff relieved Commander M. J. McGraw.
15DEC95	Fighter Squadron 41 Change of Command. Commander B. A. Brauer relieved Commander R. C. Bedford.

3. Administrative Department.

a. The Bronze Anchor Award (Shore Command) and Energy Conservation Award winner for 1995 was VC-8. The Bronze Anchor Award (Sea Command) winner was VF-41.

b. Third Quarter Sailor of the Quarter was AT1(AW) (b) (6)
Fourth Quarter Sailor of the Quarter was AZ1(AW) (b) (6) and Sailor of the Year was AK1 (b) (6)

Enclosure(2)

c. Command Navy Achievements were awarded to:

LT (b) (6) - Special act/Auxiliary Retail Outlet.
LT (b) (6) - Special act/Fighter Fling.
LT (b) (6) - Special act/Readiness Assistant.
LCDR (b) (6) - Special act/1995 NASO Air Show.
LCDR (b) (6) - Special act/Self-Help Program.
AOC (b) (6) - Special act/Revision of NAVAIR Manual.
AEA (b) (6) - Special act/Supply-components handling.
AT1 (b) (6) - Special act/Orchestrated efforts for CWTPI.
AO1 (b) (6) - Sailor of the Year.
AMS2 (b) (6) - Special act/Reorganized SARDIP inventory.
YN3 (b) (6) - Special act/TEMADD Assistant.
MM1 (b) (6) - End of tour/retirement.
AO2 (b) (6) - Special act/Revision of NAVAIR Manual.
AO2 (b) (6) - Special act/Revision of NAVAIR Manual.

d. Battle "E" winner was VF-102; Golden Wrench winner was VF-32 and the Safety "S" was awarded to VF-102.

4. Readiness Department.

- Implemented F-14A/B/D LANTIRN Program. First aircraft (F-14B) started modification 8 December 1995.

- Implemented first fleet stand up of F-14 Night Vision Devices with Fighter Squadron 103.

- Hosted F-14 Operational Advisory Group (OAG) in September 1995.

- Set requirements for the F-14A/B/D until year 2010. Defined F-14 roadmap to the future.

- Led wing to third consecutive win of the AIRLANT Grand Slam award for missile firing excellence.

- Provided briefing tours, simulator demonstrations and orientation flight for numerous distinguished visitors.

- Provided F-14 flight demonstration throughout the Continental

United States.

- Designed, built and tested F-14 rocket rapid prototype system.

- Drove rapid prototype demonstration of the Northrup/Grumman/Loral 1,000 lb hard target penetrator.

5. Maintenance Department.

- Led Fighter Wing to third consecutive Grand Slam award.

- Efforts led the F-14 community to LANTIRN precision strike capability. Fighter Wing's drive, foresight and management took a plan from inception to deployment in only 16 months.

- Developed F-14 rocket capability for eight dollars per aircraft, when the system said it would cost \$3 million.

- Drove 1,000 pound hard target penetrator fleet rapid prototype demonstration.

- Nailed down Forward Air Controller, Airborne (FAC(A)) program that is receiving rave reviews.

- Key player in the F-14 offset plan that is the roadmap for the entire community.

- Established Night Vision Device program for Fighter Wing Atlantic. Drove first and all subsequent deployments of this critical warfighting capability.

- Spearheaded 1995 Flight Demonstration program ensuring the finest foot of Naval Aviation viewed by millions across the country.

- Installed VHF radios in VF-101 T-34s.

- Installed SDRS (AFC-808) in 12 F-14A aircraft.

- Received the first SDLM aircraft from NADEP Jacksonville.

- Decommissioned VF-142.

- Prototyped Martin Marietta FLIR install in VF-103 aircraft, 161608.

- Prototype modified Low Altitude Warning System in VF-102 aircraft.

- Began install of 116A tapeload, completing VF-14, VF-41, VF-103 and VF-143.

- Successfully prototyped Night Vision Device capability in

VF-101 aircraft, 160690.

- Successfully prototyped ICS modification on VF-84 F-14A 160391.

- Decommissioned VF-84.

- Installed reworked (Blue Water) wingsweep motors in CVW-17, CVW-8 and CVW-1 aircraft.

- Converted all flight line aircraft from KIT-1As to KIT-1C.

- Began installation of six VF-103 cockpits to Night Vision capable.

- Began wiring installation of nine FLIR cockpits in VF-103.

- Installed Wing Pin Modification in 40 aircraft.

- Completed TARPS POD rework effort through Hill AFB.

- Began local 68 month Wing Bearing effort in NAMTRA Hangar, utilizing NADEP Norfolk Field Team. Completed 32 aircraft.

- Completed Standard Central Air Data Computer modification (AFC-793) in all Fighter Wing Atlantic F-14s.

- Transferred flight line Pre-Ex management to NAS Oceana Supply Department.

- Prepared museum static displays for Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum and Palm Springs Air Museum.

- Revamped AMCI inspection procedures, requiring Mid-Term turnaround, Pre and Post Cruise aircraft and program inspections. Inspection procedures provided a more in-depth look at squadron Maintenance Departments.

- Completed MCAP (AFC-828) installation in 30 F-14Bs.

- Delivered the first upgrade aircraft to NADEP Jacksonville.

- Developed transition plan for single siting F-14s at NAS Oceana.

- Stood up NADEP Jacksonville In Service Repair Team at NAS Oceana.

- Successfully prototyped Zuni Rocket 5.0 on VF-14 F-14A.

- Organized the distribution/reassignment of over 550 maintenance personnel resulting from decommissioning of two fighter squadrons.

- Facilitated testing of over 1,600 personnel through refresher

Maintenance Training Improvement Program (MTIP).

- Achieved over 70% NEC reutilization within Fighter Wing Atlantic.

- Tracked over 8,000 billets supporting 22 fighter activities at NAS Oceana and transitional NAS Miramar units as the result of BRAC consolidation.

- Hosted and acted as Fleet Liaison for 17 Naval, Marine Corps and Air Force detachments.

- Completed Hangar 404 rehab/modification.

- Commenced concrete repairs for Flight Lines 1-6 and 13-21.

- Completed rehabilitation of Building 501 (Fighter Wing) spaces.

CAPTAIN DALE O. SNODGRASS
UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Snodgrass, a native of (b) (6) was commissioned an Ensign in August 1972 and designated a Naval Aviator in December 1973. He reported to Fighter Squadron 124 as one of the first two newly winged Aviators selected for F-14 training. After being the first non-fleet experienced Aviator to carrier qualify the F-14, he reported to Fighter Squadron 142 in January 1975. Completing his first tour in May 1978, he reported to Fighter Squadron 101, the F-14 Training Squadron, as a Flight Instructor and Landing Signal Officer. Following his instructor tour, he reported to Carrier Air Wing 8 as the Senior Landing Signal Officer.

After a two year tour in Air Wing 8, he reported to Fighter Squadron 43 as an Adversary Instructor, serving as Operations Officer. Returning to the fleet in January 1985, Captain Snodgrass served in Fighter Squadron 143 as Operations and Maintenance Officer. In 1986 Captain Snodgrass was selected as the Navy's "Fighter Pilot of the Year" and "Top Cat of the Year". Reporting to Fighter Squadron 101 in January 1988, he served as the Executive Officer until May 1988. Captain Snodgrass subsequently joined Fighter Squadron 33 as Executive Officer later the same month. He assumed command of Fighter Squadron 33 in September 1989, while embarked on the USS AMERICA (CV 66) in the Red Sea. Upon completion of his sixth deployment, he led his squadron through an accelerated training cycle that culminated with combat operations in support of "DESERT STORM". His Commanding Officer's tour ended with yet another underway Change of Command in the Red Sea in February 1991.

Captain Snodgrass then reported to the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) as Navigator. Assuming additional duties as Battle Group Navigator, he planned, coordinated and safely executed Battle Group navigation and transit in the Red Sea, Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean. His Navigation Department and Staff was subsequently selected for the U.S. Atlantic's Fleet Navigation award for 1992. Transferring in March 1993, he reported to the Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare as Head, Aviation Manpower, Undergraduate Flight Training and Trainer Aircraft sections. In September 1994, Captain Snodgrass reported as Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Snodgrass has accumulated over ^{6,160}5,200 tactical jet hours, including ^{4,000}3,700 hours in the F-14 and 1,084 carrier arrested landings. His personal awards include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Air Medal with Combat V (two awards), Strike Flight Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, with Combat V (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards) and various Unit and Service Decorations.

Captain Snodgrass and his lovely wife, (b) (6)
(b) (6). He has two beautiful daughters, (b) (6)

Enclosure (3)



FORMER WING COMMANDERS

Captain Eugene Bezore	1 July 1971 - 4 January 1972
Captain Wilbert D. Knutson	4 January 1972 - 16 July 1974
Captain Lowell R. Myers	16 July 1974 - 27 August 1975
Captain Gerald L. Riendeau	27 August 1975 - 27 August 1976
Captain John S. Disher	27 August 1976 - 28 April 1978
Captain Samuel C. Flynn, Jr.	28 April 1978 - 31 July 1980
Captain Robert E. Tucker, Jr.	31 July 1980 - 2 April 1982
Captain Frederick L. Lewis	2 April 1982 - 7 October 1983
Captain Roy Cash, Jr.	7 October 1983 - 7 February 1985
Captain Donald L. McCrory	7 February 1985 - 21 February 1986
Captain John F. Manning, Jr.	15 September 1986 - 9 August 1988
Captain Curtiss W. Schantz, Jr.	9 August 1988 - 17 May 1990
Captain Richard W. Potter	17 May 1990 - 24 June 1991
Captain James Flaherty, Jr.	24 June 1991 - 7 August 1992
Captain Robert S. Schmidt	7 August 1992 - 30 September 1994

Enclosure (5)